

## IN THE CLAIMS

- 1.-23. (previously cancelled)
24. (previously added) A method for reducing the activity of an RNase, comprising:
- a) providing
    - i) a preparation comprising at least one RNA heteropolymer;
    - ii) a sample containing an RNase; and
  - b) mixing said preparation with said sample under conditions such that the activity of said RNase enzyme is diminished relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA heteropolymer.
25. (previously added) The method Claim 24, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 25% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA heteropolymer.
26. (previously added) The method Claim 24, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 50% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA heteropolymer.
27. (previously added) The method Claim 24, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 75% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA heteropolymer.
28. (previously added) The method Claim 24, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 90% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA heteropolymer.
29. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise polyA:polyU.

30. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise polyC:polyG.

31. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise poly(GU).

32. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise poly (CU).

33. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise poly(GI).

34. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers comprise poly (CI).

35. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said one or more RNA heteropolymers are affixed to a solid support.

36. (previously added) The method of Claim 35, wherein said solid support is a resin.

37. (previously added) The method of Claim 35, wherein said solid support comprises a plastic surface.

38. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said RNase is selected from the group consisting of: RNase A, RNase H, RNase One, RNase B, RNase T<sub>1</sub>, RNase T<sub>2</sub>, RNase S, RNase from chicken liver, and RNase from *Aspergillus clavatus*.

39. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said preparation further comprises a ribonuclease inhibitor.

40. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said RNase is in a cell.

41. (previously added) The method of Claim 40, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

42. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said RNase comprises angiogenin.

43. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein said ribonuclease inhibitor is RNASIN.

44. (previously added) A method for reducing the activity of an RNase, comprising:

- a) providing
  - i) a preparation comprising at least one isolated, unmodified RNA homopolymer;
  - ii) a sample containing an RNase; and
- c) mixing said preparation with said sample under conditions such that the activity of said RNase enzyme is diminished relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA homopolymer.

45. (previously added) The method Claim 44, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 25% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA homopolymer.

46. (previously added) The method Claim 44, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 50% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA homopolymer.

47. (previously added) The method Claim 44, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 75% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA homopolymer.

48. (previously added) The method Claim 44, wherein the activity of said RNase is diminished at least 90% relative to the activity of said RNase in the absence of said RNA homopolymer.

49. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said one or more RNA homopolymers comprise polyI.

50. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said one or more RNA homopolymers comprise polyA.

51. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said one or more RNA homopolymers comprise polyG.

52. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said one or more RNA homopolymers comprise polyC.

53. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said one or more RNA homopolymers are affixed to a solid support.

54. (previously added) The method of Claim 53, wherein said solid support is a resin.

55. (previously added) The method of Claim 53, wherein said solid support comprises a plastic surface.

56. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said RNase is selected from the group consisting of: RNase A, RNase H, RNase One, RNase B, RNase T<sub>1</sub>, RNase T<sub>2</sub>, RNase S, RNase from chicken liver, and RNase from *Aspergillus clavatus*.

57. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said preparation further comprises a ribonuclease inhibitor.

58. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said RNase is in a cell.

59. (previously added) The method of Claim 58, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

60. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said RNase comprises angiogenin.

61. (previously added) The method of Claim 44, wherein said ribonuclease inhibitor is RNASIN.